पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र के राज्यों और पश्चिम बंगाल, सीमा सुरक्षा बल और अन्य एजेन्सियों से प्राप्त रिपोर्टों के आधार पर स्थिति का सतत प्रबोधन किया जाता है।

Explosion in Srinagar City

*350. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether explosion of a powerful improvised explosive device rocking entire Srinagar City by militants was reported on the 6th December, 1998;

(b) whether such explosion was targeted when a V.V.I.P. of Government was on a visit to the city;

(c) whether continuance of explosion of powerful devices in Jammu and Kashmir proves that Government have not been able to check militants crossing Indian border despite deployment of Indian Army in large number; and

(d) whether incidents of explosion have been frequent during visits of V.V.I. Ps of Government during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) On December 6, 1998 at about 2315 hours, an explosion took place inside a public convenience block (urinal) of Srinagar Municipal Corporation at Boulevard Road, Srinagar. No loss of life or injury was reported though the explosion caused some damage to the buildings and their window panes. There is no reason to suspect that the explosion was targetted at the VVIP who was present at a place located at a distance of 3.5 to 4 kms. from the site of the explosion.

(c) Due to sustained pressure, vigil and concerted actions of security forces and the State Administration, which includes strengthening of border population, enhancing of intelligence capabilities, technological upgradation of the Security forces, and greater functional integration and coordinated action by security forces to curb infiltration and to counter militancy, the number of terrorist incidents has decreased in the State. There has been a significant improvement in the situation. However, Pakistan continues to give all kinds of help to militants/terrorists to sustain militancy in Jammu & Kashmir.

(d) No. Sir.

New Highway Club Scheme

*351. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a new Highway Club Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outlet opened for marketing petroleum products;

(c) whether Government propose to further intensify the said scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) to (d) In order to provide various facilities to the motoring public on the highways under one roof, Government has launched a scheme for developing retail outlet dealerships known as Jubilee outlets, with multiple-facilities on the National Hiwhways and some important State Highways. In phase-I of the scheme, 51 retail outlet dealerships will be developed by oil companies on a pilot project basis. These will be set up and operated by the oil companies themselves.

So far, Indian Oil Corporation has commissioned two such retail outlets, one at Ongole on National Highway No. 37 in district Prakasham in Andhra Pradesh and the other at Khirai on National Highway No. 8A, District Rajkot, Gujarat. The other retail outlets are at different stages of development.

Further intensification of the scheme will depend on the response to and success of the scheme and the experience of the oil companies.